CLAIMS:

1. A continuous belt casting apparatus for continuously casting metal strip, comprising:

at least one movable endless belt having a casting surface at least partially defining a casting cavity,

means for advancing said at least one endless belt through the casting cavity,

means for injecting molten metal into said casting cavity, and

means for cooling said at least one endless belt as it passes through the casting cavity,

wherein said at least one endless belt is made of aluminum or an aluminum alloy.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said at least one casting belt has a thickness in a range of 1 to 2 mm.

3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the aluminum alloy is selected from the group consisting of AA5XXX and AA6XXX alloy systems.

4. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the aluminum alloy is selected from the group consisting of AA5754, AA5052 and AA6061.

5. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said at least one casting belt has a yield strength of at least 100 MPa.

6. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said at least one casting belt has a thermal conductivity greater than 120 W/m-K.

7. The apparatus of claim 1, being a twin belt caster having two said endless belts made of said aluminum or aluminum alloy.

8. A process of casting a molten metal in a form of strip, which comprises: providing at least one casting belt made of aluminum or an aluminum alloy and having a casting surface which at least partially defines a casting cavity, continuously advancing said at least one casting belt through the casting cavity, supplying the molten metal to an inlet of the casting cavity, cooling said at least one casting belt is it passes through the casting cavity, and continuously collecting the resulting cast strip from an outlet of the casting cavity.

9. The process of claim 8, wherein said step of supplying molten metal to the mould comprises supplying molten aluminum, magnesium, copper, zinc or an alloy thereof.

10. The process of claim 8, wherein said step of supplying molten metal to the casting cavity comprises supplying molten aluminum or an aluminum alloy.

11. The process of claim 8, wherein the step of supplying molten metal to the casting cavity comprises supplying an Al-Fe-Si or Al-Fe-Mn-Si alloy.

12. The process of claim 9, whererin the step of supplying molten metal to the casting cavity comprises supplying an Al-Mg or Al-Si-Mg alloy.

13. The process of claim 8, which further comprises a step of applying a parting agent to said casting surface before said at least one belt is advanced through the casting cavity.

14. The process of claim 8, which comprises providing a belt having a thickness in a range of 1 to 2 mm as said at least one casting belt.

15. The process of claim 8, which comprises providing a belt made of an aluminum alloy of the AA5XXX or AA6XXX alloy systems as said at least one casting belt.

16. The process of claim 8, which comprises providing a belt having a yield strength of at least 100 MPa as said casting belt.

17. The process of claim 8, which comprises providing a belt having a thermal conductivity greater than 120 W/m-K as said at least one casting belt.

18. A casting belt adapted for use in a continuous casting apparatus having at least one movable endless belt provided with a casting surface at least partially defining a casting cavity, means for advancing said at least one endless belt through the casting cavity, means for injecting molten metal into said casting cavity, and means for cooling said at least one endless belt as it passes through the casting cavity, wherein said casting belt is made of aluminum or an aluminum alloy.

19. The casting belt according to claim 18, wherein the casting belt has a thickness in a range of 1 to 2 mm.

20. The casting belt according to claim 18, wherein the aluminum alloy employed for the casting belt is an alloy selected from AA5XXX and AA6XXX alloy systems.

21. The casting belt according to claim 18, wherein the casting belt has a yield strength of at least 100 MPa.

22. The casting belt according to claim 18, wherein the casting belt has a thermal conductivity greater than 120 W/m-K.